

We claim:

1. A drawing tablet comprising:  
a surface; and  
an imaging sensor designed to capture an image on the surface, the imaging sensor  
designed to capture the image even if the image is occluded.

2. A drawing tablet according to claim 1, wherein:  
the surface is translucent; and  
the imaging sensor is mounted below the surface.

3. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
transmission means designed to transmit the image captured by the imaging sensor to a  
computer.

4. A drawing tablet according to claim 3, wherein the transmission means  
includes a cable coupled to the drawing tablet and to the computer.

5. A drawing tablet according to claim 3, wherein the transmission means a  
wireless transmitter designed to wirelessly transmit the image to the a wireless receiver  
coupled to the computer.

6. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
software in a computer designed to adjust the image to compensate for distortion by the  
imaging sensor.

7. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
software in a computer designed to adjust the image to compensate for a reversed image  
captured by the imaging sensor.

8. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
an erasable pen designed to draw on the surface.

1           9.     A drawing tablet according to claim 8, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2     an eraser for erasing marks produced by the erasable pen.

1           10.    A drawing tablet according to claim 8, wherein the image is hand-drawn with  
2     the erasable pen.

1           11.    A drawing tablet according to claim 2, wherein the imaging sensor is designed  
2     to capture images of physical objects placed on the surface.

1           12.    A drawing tablet according to claim 2, wherein the imaging sensor is designed  
2     to capture colors in the image on the surface.

1           13.    A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2     software in a computer designed to animate at least a portion of the image.

1           14.    A drawing tablet according to claim 13, wherein the software is designed to  
2     animate the portion of the image based on a movement of a physical object placed on the  
3     surface.

1           15.    A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2     light projecting means.

1           16.    A drawing tablet according to claim 15, wherein the light projecting means  
2     includes:

3         a light emitting source; and  
4         mirrors designed to reflect the light; and  
5         galvanometers designed to move the mirrors to steer light emitting from the light  
6     emitting source onto the surface.

1           17.    A drawing tablet according to claim 16, wherein the light emitting source is  
2     constructed and arranged to vary its luminance.

1 18. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2 an additional light source to increase contrast of the image on the surface as captured by the  
3 imaging sensor.

1 19. A method for using a drawing tablet, the method comprising:  
2 capturing an image from the surface of the drawing tablet so that no objects on the  
3 surface of the drawing tablet are occluded;  
4 transmitting the captured image to a computer; and  
5 processing the captured image on the computer for display on a monitor.

1 20. A method according to claim 19, wherein capturing an image includes  
2 capturing the image from beneath the surface of the drawing tablet, the drawing tablet  
3 including a translucent surface.

1 21. A method according to claim 20, wherein transmitting the captured image  
2 includes wirelessly transmitting the captured image to a computer.

1 22. A method according to claim 20, wherein processing the captured image  
2 includes animating at least a portion of the captured image.

1 23. A method according to claim 22, wherein animating at least a portion of the  
2 captured image includes animating the portion of the captured image based on the contents of  
3 the captured image.

1 24. A method according to claim 23, wherein animating the portion of the  
2 captured image includes animating the portion of the captured image based on a change in the  
3 contents of the captured image.

1 25. A method according to claim 20, the method further comprising repeating at  
2 intervals the steps of capturing, transmitting, and processing.

1 26. A method according to claim 25, the method further comprising updating the  
2 image on the surface of the drawing tablet.

1 27. ~~A method according to claim 20, the method further comprising projecting a~~  
2 light onto the drawing tablet.

1 28. A method according to claim 27, the method further comprising;  
2 capturing a change in the captured image; and  
3 measuring how accurately the change follows the projected light.

1 29. An article comprising:  
2 a storage medium, said storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that, when  
3 executed by a computing device, result in:  
4 receiving an image captured from a surface of a drawing tablet, the image captured in  
5 a manner such that no portion of the surface of the drawing tablet is occluded;  
6 modifying the received image; and  
7 displaying the modified image.

1 30. An article according to claim 29, wherein receiving an image includes  
2 receiving the image captured by an imaging sensor from the surface of the drawing tablet.

1 31. An article according to claim 29, wherein receiving an image includes  
2 receiving an image captured from beneath the surface of the drawing tablet, the surface of the  
3 drawing tablet being translucent.

1 32. An article according to claim 29, wherein modifying the received image  
2 includes modifying the received image based on the contents of the image.

1 33. An article according to claim 29, wherein modifying the received image  
2 includes modifying the image based on a change from a prior image.

1 34. An article according to claim 33, wherein modifying the image based on a  
2 change from a prior image includes animating the image based on the change.